



Program Highlights

Auburn Office Building: Benefits/Cost Savings

- \$2,187 cost savings
- 98% reuse rate

Materials Recycled/Reused

- 27 tons of carpet tiles reused

Project Statistics

- Size: 9,000 square foot carpet replacement
- Location: Auburn, WA

Federal Way Office Building: Benefits/Cost Savings

- \$373 cost savings
- 75% reuse rate

Materials Recycled/Reused

- 4.6 tons of carpet and pad reused
- 0.6 tons of pad recycled

Project Statistics

- Size: 3,000 square foot carpet replacement
- Location: Federal Way, WA

Carpet Contractor

Value Flooring
900 Broad Street
Seattle, WA 98109
(206) 583-8700



Mark Riley, of Value Flooring, inspects a shipment of incoming carpet to be sold for reuse.

Carpet Reuse & Recycling

Carpeting Floors, Not Landfills

The Challenge

What to do with used carpet that is now being replaced? You could add it to the 1.75 million tons of carpet thrown in landfills every year or take advantage of other options available in King County for unwanted carpet.

Reuse Saves Over \$2,000

According to owners Yasmine and John Ryan of Value Flooring, the best option for carpet with life left in it is to reuse it. Value Flooring was called on to remove 9,000-sq. ft. of carpet tile from an office building in Auburn. Although five years old, the carpet was still in good shape and Value Flooring was able to sell all 27 tons of it. The carpet tiles were applied with tape rather than glue. Consequently, virtually the entire carpet was removed without ripping or creating unusable pieces. Value Flooring saved over \$2,000 in disposal fees and made additional gains through the sale of the used carpet.

Sterling Contract Floors subcontracted with Value Flooring to remove 3,000 square yards of carpet and padding from an office building in Federal Way. Seventy-five percent of both the six-year old carpet and the carpet pad were sold for reuse, resulting in over 4.5 tons of carpet and pad diverted from the landfill. The unusable portion of the carpet pad was recycled

"Thousands of tons of perfectly good carpet are thrown away every year. We give carpet a new life by reusing it instead."

— John Ryan
Owner, Value Flooring

through Pacific Urethane Recycling in Kent. Income from the sale of the used carpet combined with avoided disposal costs represented a savings of over \$2,200 to Sterling.

Other Reuse Options for Carpet

Used Carpet Gets New Look

Through Pacific Modular of Seattle, used Milliken carpet tile can be cleaned and stamped with a fresh stain-covering pattern at about half the cost of new carpet. Five years ago, the GTE plant in Everett was re-carpeted with ten-year old carpet tiles that had been re-patterned to look new at half the cost of purchasing new carpet.

Carpet Recycling Continues to Increase

Vandalism at an elementary school in the Kent School District ruined Collins & Aikmen (C&A) carpet tiles. C&A took the tiles back and recycled them into parking stops that were then used in the parking lots of two new Kent schools. Contractors can ship used C&A carpet tiles back to their Georgia plant where they are recycled into carpet backing and parking stops. The cost is comparable to that of disposal.

Two other carpet manufacturers, BASF and DuPont, also offer recycling options to their clients. Since 1994, BASF has begun stamping their recyclable carpets with identification. These carpets, which account for 88% of commercial carpet on the market, can be recycled through their Seattle representative. There are shipping costs, but this is still a considerable savings over disposal. Although recycling DuPont carpet currently costs more than disposal, contractors are encouraged to stay current on disposal alternatives. Several of the big players in the carpet world are moving toward new services, more convenient locations, and lower costs for carpet reuse and recycling.

King County Offers Free Technical Assistance to Construction, Demolition and Landclearing Contractors

- Assistance developing comprehensive job-site waste management plans
- *Construction/Recycling Directory* - a listing of area recyclers
- *Contractors' Guide to Preventing Waste and Recycling* - a how-to guide
- Case studies highlighting successful job-site programs
- *WasteSpec** - a manual of model specifications for construction waste reduction, reuse and recycling. This manual provides architects and engineers model specification language for job-site recycling.
- Examples of contract language specifying recycling and waste management requirements from job-sites throughout King County
- Green Works/Construction Works public recognition program

* Developed by Triangle J Council of Governments; cost \$25.00

**Call the King County Solid Waste Division
(206) 296-8480 for assistance.**

For more information:

King County

*King County Construction
Recycling Directory*
Theresa Koppang
*King County
Solid Waste Division*
(206) 296-8480
1-800-833-6388 (TTY Relay)

City of Seattle

*Business and Industry
Recycling Venture*
(206) 389-7304

Carpeting Contractor

Yasmine and John Ryan,
Co-Owners,
Value Flooring
(206) 217-9110

Case Study Consultants

O'Brien & Company
(206) 842-8995

This material will be provided in alternate formats upon request.

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RECYCLING
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